

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**In re Application of:
Gaillard, et al.**

Serial No.: 09/706,298

Confirmation No.: 6722

Filed: November 3, 2000

For: Novel Integration Scheme
for Dual Damascene
Structure

Group Art Unit: 1765

JAN 28 2004 2/9/04

OFFICIAL

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 24, 2003

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE
TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8**

In response to the Final Office Action dated November 24, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 24, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicant believes that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/4564/KMT, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 14 of this paper.